

NEWS RELEASE

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MAY 3, 2005

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DeNUCCI SAYS CAPE COD TRANSIT AUTHORITY SHOULD IMPROVE FARE CONTROLS

State Auditor Joe DeNucci reported today that the Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority needs to do a better job of protecting its bus fare collections. There was inadequate assurance that \$178,877 in fare revenues reported by the authority matched the total amount actually collected, according to DeNucci.

DeNucci's audit found that the authority failed to properly account for its fixed-route bus fare collections during fiscal year 2004 because it did not reconcile the money collected from riders with the amount deposited and reported on the authority's books.

In addition, DeNucci's audit found that 20 to 25 percent of the fare boxes on the authority's buses were not working at any given time. When the boxes are broken, drivers collect the money by hand and store it in bags by their seats.

DeNucci also reported that two burglaries at an operations center in Dennis resulted in thefts of fare boxes and damages to a larger safe that was used to hold fare revenues. Although \$20,356 was set aside through an insurance settlement to replace the damaged safe, DeNucci's audit found that a new safe was never purchased. Instead, the authority continued to use the old safe despite damages that prevented an accurate accounting of revenues collected and deposited into the safe.

"The Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority should address these serious weaknesses in internal controls to ensure that revenues are fully accounted for and protected against theft," said DeNucci.

In response, the authority said it agrees with DeNucci's recommendations and intends to program computers on the buses to track the fare amounts collected.

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